

South Atlantic Coastal Study

Report Roll-out Meeting: U.S. Virgin Islands
November 4, 2021

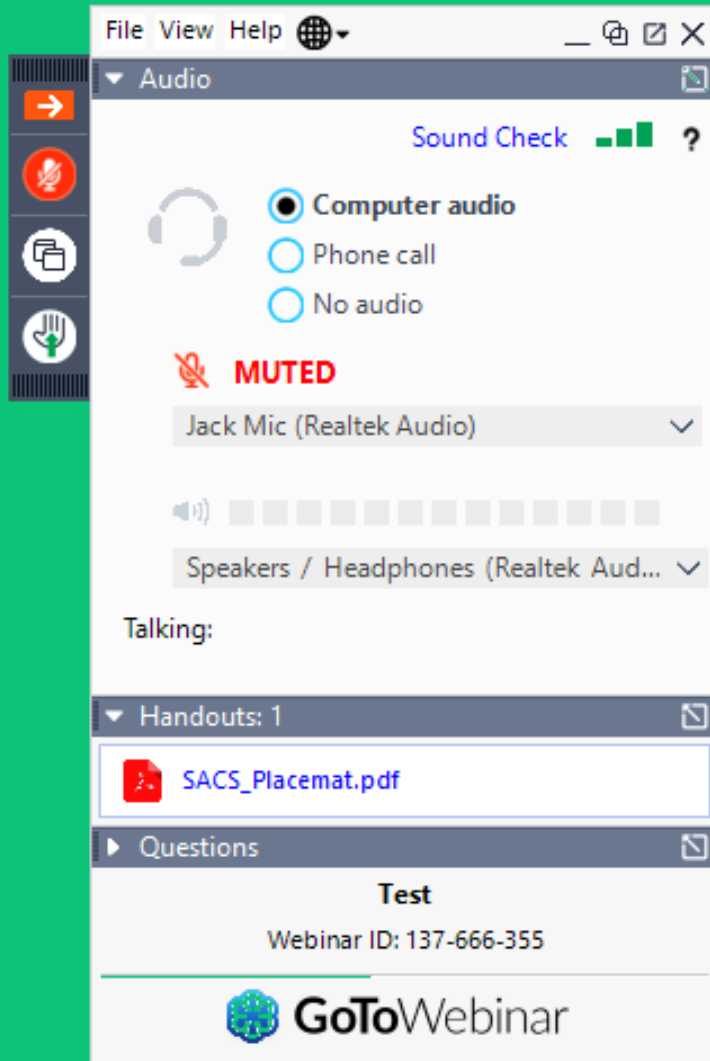


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Housekeeping



- Lines will start as muted but can be opened for discussion. Please mute yourself when not speaking to limit background noise.
 - Use the raise hand feature to alert staff you have a comment
- Questions and comments can also be submitted via the chat box throughout the presentation
 - If having technical difficulties reach out via chat to staff.
- A PDF of the slides is available in the Handouts section.



USACE & Facilitator Team



USACE:

Ashleigh Fountain

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Project Manager/Facilitator

Coastal Engineer

Biologist

Planner

CDM Smith:

Anni Shelton

Facilitator



Virtual Poll – What type of organization do you represent?



**Federal /USVI/
Local Agency**

Tribal Nations

Academia

**Non-Governmental
Agency**

Other



Meeting Purpose



1

Provide a brief overview of the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) reports and products

2

Present DRAFT SACS findings and recommendations for the U.S. Virgin Islands

3

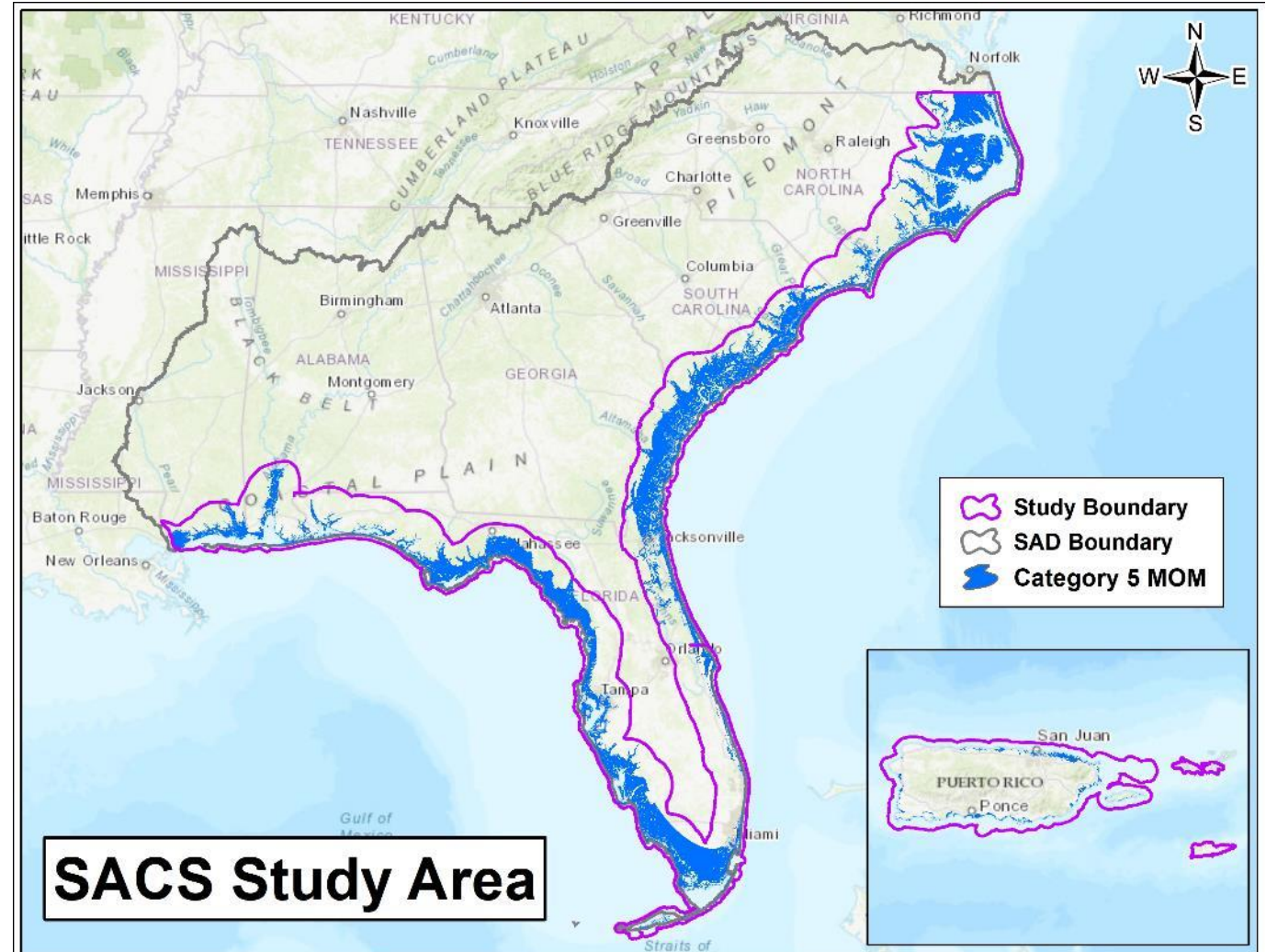
Walk through report structure and organization to facilitate stakeholder review



Study Area



Approximately 65,000 miles of tidally influenced coastline in the South Atlantic Division area of responsibility affected by sea level rise (SLR) where hurricane and storm damages are occurring or are forecast to occur.





SACS Study Goals & Corresponding Products



The Goals of the SACS are to:		How is SACS working towards these goals?
1	PROVIDE A COMMON OPERATING PICTURE OF COASTAL RISK	Tier 1 Risk Assessment Tier 2 Environmental Resources Inundation Risk Assessment Tier 2 Economic Risk Assessment Coastal Hazards System
2	IDENTIFY HIGH-RISK LOCATIONS AND FOCUS CURRENT AND FUTURE RESOURCES	Tier 1 and Tier 2 High-Risk Locations Priority Environmental Areas Focus Area Action Strategies
3	IDENTIFY AND ASSESS RISK REDUCTION ACTIONS	Measures and Costs Library Focus Area Action Strategies 2020 RSM Optimization Update
4	PROMOTE AND SUPPORT RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES	SACS Geoportal State/Territory Appendices Focus Area Action Strategies Coastal Program Guide
5	PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS	2020 RSM Optimization Update Project Performance Evaluations Sand Availability and Needs Determination Institutional and Other Barriers Report
6	LEVERAGE ONGOING ACTIONS	SACS Geoportal Provide access to SACS data and key products Incorporate findings of ongoing efforts



SACS Report Now Available

<https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/>

South Atlantic Coastal Study - SACS



SACS Shared Vision

The SACS vision is to provide a common understanding of risk from coastal storms and sea level rise to support resilient communities and habitats. This collaborative effort will leverage stakeholders' actions to plan and implement cohesive coastal storm risk management strategies along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast shorelines, including the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

SACS Draft Reports

SACS Draft Reports are available for review and comment through November 15, 2021. Comments can be provided through the following form: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SACS_comments



SACS Main Report	Outreach Appendix	Florida Appendix	Puerto Rico Appendix
Engineering Appendix	Alabama Appendix	Mississippi Appendix	South Carolina Appendix
Geospatial Appendix	Georgia Appendix	North Carolina Appendix	U.S. Virgin Islands Appendix
Recommendations Summary Spreadsheet			



SOUTH ATLANTIC COASTAL STUDY (SACS) Main Report



FINAL DRAFT REPORT
OCTOBER 2021




Applying the Framework



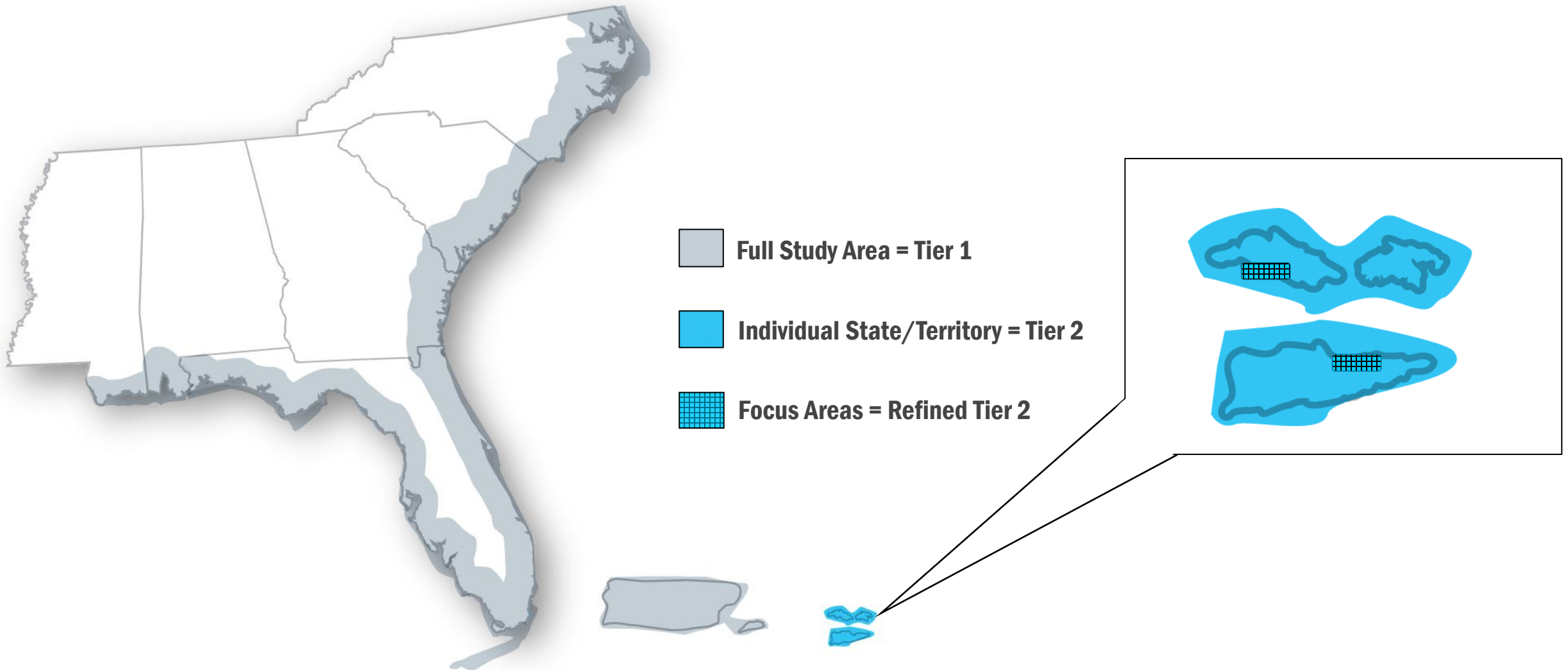
Completed in the SACS

Beyond SACS

COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK		TIER 1 FULL STUDY AREA	TIER 2 STATE/TERRITORY	TIER 2 FOCUS AREA
1 2 3 4 5	INITIATE ANALYSIS	Stakeholder collaboration to identify study problems, opportunities, and goals and develop a shared vision statement.	Stakeholder collaboration workshops to identify state- and territory-specific problems, opportunities, and constraints.	Focus-area-specific vision meetings with stakeholders. Identify problems, opportunities, and leverage stakeholders for ongoing and planned work.
	CHARACTERIZE CONDITIONS	Tier 1 risk assessment uses national level datasets to characterize conditions, including FEMA, NOAA, and other federal agency data.	Higher-resolution information is applied: Priority Environmental Area Identification, consideration of erosion and additional coastal hazards.	Depending upon the level of work previously completed in focus areas, Tier 1 and Tier 2 data and/or higher resolution data are used to characterize conditions.
	ANALYZE RISK AND VULNERABILITY	Tier 1 risk assessment provides a consistent analysis of potential coastal risk from storm surge inundation and sea level rise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">State and territory appendices provide additional detail on risk and hazardsTier 2 Economic Risk AssessmentPriority Environmental Area Identification	Tier 1 and Tier 2 and/or higher-resolution data are used to define areas and drivers of high risk.
	IDENTIFY POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Measures & Cost Library includes structural, non-structural, and natural and nature-based features.Coastal Program Guide identifies programs and resources available to stakeholders.	<div>Broad application of the:</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Measures & Cost LibraryRSM OptimizationSAND Report <div>Project Performance Evaluation</div> <div>Coastal Program Guide</div>	Location-specific application of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Measures & Cost LibraryRSM OptimizationSAND Report
	EVALUATE AND COMPARE SOLUTIONS	Measures & Cost Library provides planning level costs of measures to reduce risk.	State and territory appendices identify opportunities to address high-risk areas.	Stakeholder collaboration on a strategy composed of actions to reduce risk. <ul style="list-style-type: none">Measures & Cost LibraryTier 2 Economic Risk Assessment
6 7 8 9	SELECT PLAN	TIER 3 		Coordinated strategy is produced to identify stakeholder/agency responsibilities for further action.
	DEVELOP IMPLEMENTATION PLAN			
	EXECUTE PLAN			
	MONITOR AND ADAPT			



Applying the Framework: Geographic Scales

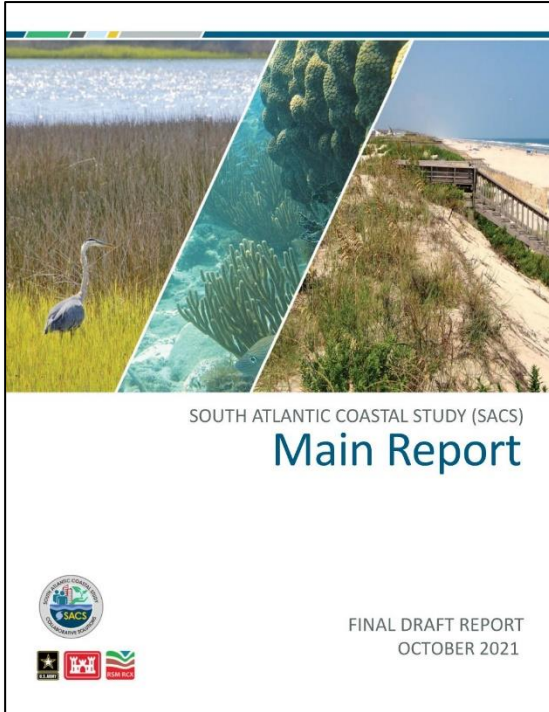




SACS Reports and Products



South Atlantic Coastal Study Main Report



Appendices

Engineering Appendix

Geospatial Appendix

Outreach Appendix

Alabama Appendix

Florida Appendix

Georgia Appendix

Mississippi Appendix

North Carolina Appendix

Puerto Rico Appendix

South Carolina Appendix

U.S. Virgin Islands Appendix

Focus Area Action Strategies

AL: Western Mobile Bay and Tensaw River Delta

GA: Chatham County

GA: Glynn County

FL: Northeast Florida

FL: East Central Florida

FL: Southeast Florida

FL: Southwest Florida

FL: Tampa Bay Region

FL: Panama City, Panama City Beach, Mexico Beach, and Tyndall Air Force Base

FL: Pensacola, Fort Walton Beach, and Destin

MS: Greater Pascagoula

MS: Biloxi-Gulfport

NC: Dare County and Ocracoke

NC: Carteret and Craven Counties

NC: New Hanover and Brunswick Counties

PR: Cabo Rojo

PR: Isabela to Rincón

SC: Grand Strand

SC: Charleston Metro

USVI: Christiansted

USVI: Charlotte Amalie

Supporting Documents

SACS Geoportal

Measures and Costs Library Report

Institutional and Other Barriers Report

Coastal Program Guide

2020 Regional Sediment Management Optimization Update

Planning Aid Report

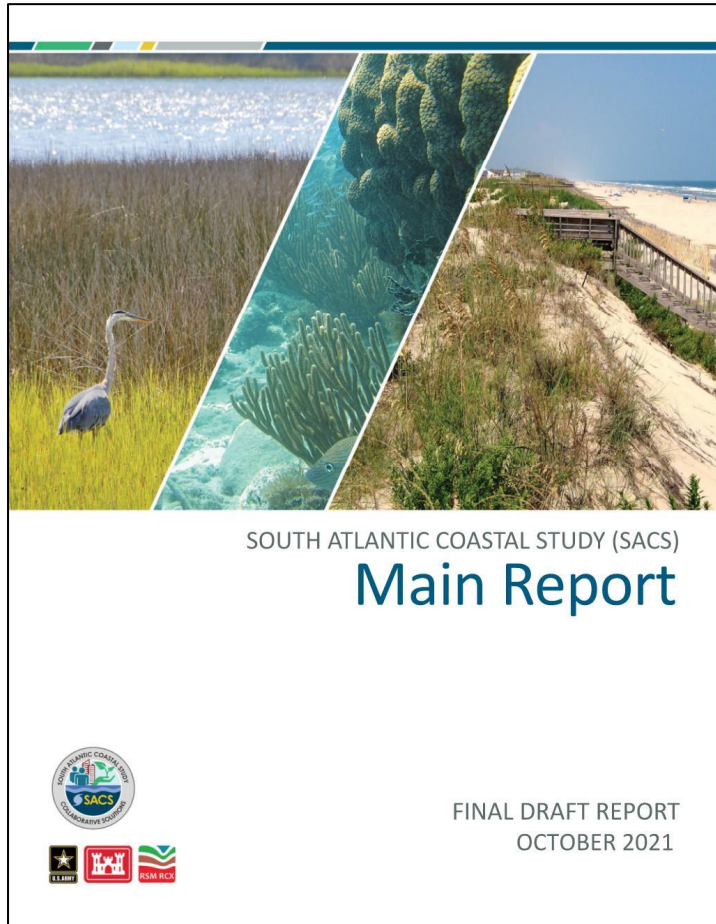
Sand Availability and Needs Determination (SAND) Report

Environmental Technical Report

Tier 2 Economic Risk Assessment Report



Main Report Organization



Executive Summary

Section 1 – Study Overview

Section 2 – Stakeholder Engagement

Section 3 – Findings

Section 4 – Applying the Framework: Tier1

Section 5 – Applying the Framework: Tier 2

Section 6 – Institutional and Other Barriers

Section 7 – Recommendations



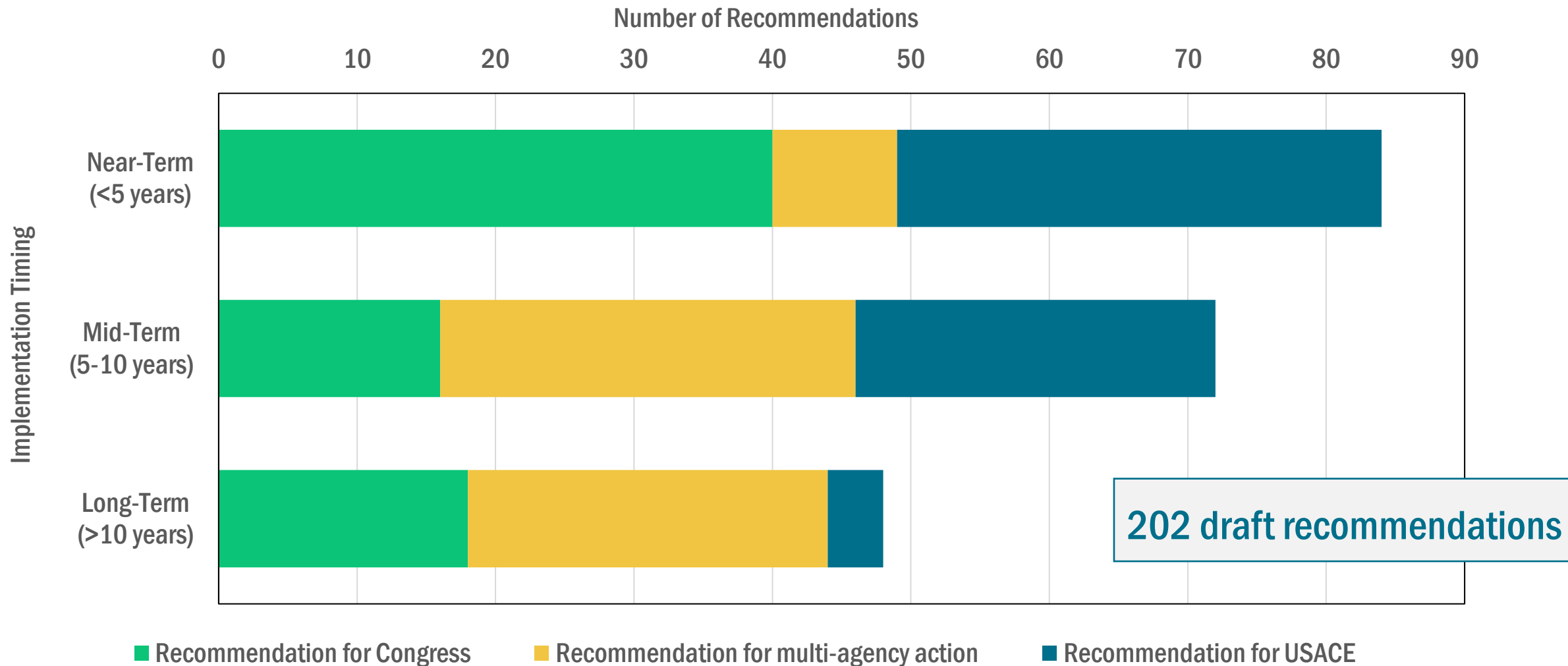
Regional Findings



1. Significant coastal storm risk and consequential flooding exists throughout the study area and will dramatically increase as sea level rises and critical thresholds are surpassed.
2. Significant risk exists where development practices have created areas of dense infrastructure with limited or nonexistent adaptive capacity to contend with changing conditions.
3. Existing CSRM actions that are deemed effective should be maintained and modified in relation to changing conditions and should serve as examples for needed actions.
4. Regional sediment management (RSM) and beneficial use of dredged material strategies support economically sustainable and environmentally acceptable solutions to reduce coastal risk and must continue to be advanced throughout the region.
5. Joint responsibility is critical to risk management, as the footprint and complexity of coastal risk is continuing to increase. Because all stakeholders play a part in managing risk, collaborative planning among local, state, tribal, and federal entities, NGOs, academia, business, and industry must improve and burgeon actions to reduce risk.
6. Shared tools and information will assist in assessing, communicating, and addressing risk.
7. Natural and Nature-Based Features (NNBFs) are viable options for reducing coastal risk and providing co-benefits.
8. Where avoidance of risk is not possible, communities should adopt combinations of solutions, including nonstructural, structural, NNBF, and programmatic measures to manage risk.
9. RSM can supply sediment sources applicable for risk management efforts that provide monetary and nonmonetary benefits.



Recommendations for Congress, Multi-Agency Action, and USACE





Recommendation Organization



CATEGORIES FROM SACS AUTHORITY

Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis	
Address Barriers Preventing Comprehensive Risk Management	
Design and Construction Efforts	
Recommendations on Previously Authorized USACE Construction Projects	
Regional Sediment Management Practices	
Study Efforts	

IMPLEMENTATION TIMING

Timing for implementation is influenced by stakeholder collaboration needed, technical complexity, stakeholder interest, and other factors.

Near-term (< 5 years):

- Less complex
- Significant stakeholder momentum toward implementation, short implementation timeframe
- Maintain and adapt what works, implement ongoing/planned efforts

Mid-term (5-10 years) :

- Increased complexity
- Advance and implement emerging efforts

Long-term (> 10 years):

- More complex recommendations requiring significant stakeholder coordination before implementation
- Example: Large scale implementation of changes to land-use, zoning, or building codes



Recommendation Summary Spreadsheet

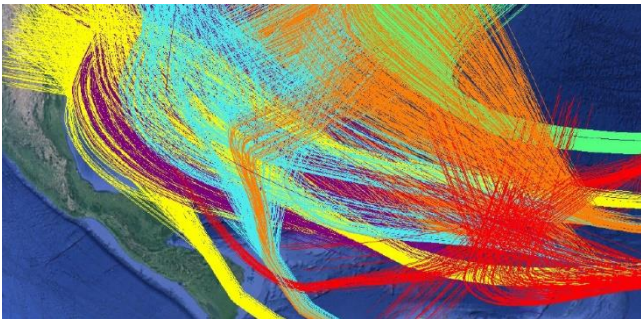


- Recommendation summary spreadsheet available to download from SACS website
- Able to sort and filter by available categories

Rec ID	Authority Category	Recommendation for	Implementation Timing	State/ Territory	Regional Priority	Recommendation	Description	Next Step to Implementation
1	Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis	Recommendation for USACE	Near-Term (<5 years)	All	Regional Priority	Acknowledge and consider environmental benefits as a factor in deciding on a recommended plan in all future CSRMs studies that include beach nourishment. Use methods that account for environmental benefits in traditional habitat units and economic quantities (monetized).	Given the significant environmental benefits incidentally provided by many beach nourishment projects, and in accordance with the Assistant Secretary of the Army (Civil Works) policy directive, "Comprehensive Documentation of Benefits in Decision Document," efforts to fully acknowledge and consider environmental benefits as a factor in deciding on a recommended plan should be made in all future CSRMs studies that include beach nourishment. Future work should also include methods to account for environmental benefits, not only in traditional habitat units, but also in economic quantities.	guidance/policy
2	Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis	Recommendation for USACE	Near-Term (<5 years)	All	Regional Priority	SACS key products should be maintained and updated by USACE and utilized, as applicable, by USACE and stakeholders to support consistent, efficient, and effective analyses.	SACS products can assist project delivery teams more efficiently carry out study efforts by providing a common set of tools and products. Products also provide users and reviewers with a common baseline/understanding to support more efficient and effective analyses and reviews. SACS key products and associated training on their use should be provided within USACE and to interested stakeholders throughout the study area, ideally in joint training with other federal and state agencies incorporating additional tools and products.	funding
3	Activities and Areas Warranting Further Analysis	Recommendation for multi-agency action	Mid-Term (5-10 years)	All	Regional Priority	Advance ongoing interagency work to improve understanding and application of compound flooding effects on existing and future coastal storm risk.	Separate from the SACS, the U.S. Congress has directed the USACE ERDC to collaborate with academia to conduct research into compound flooding. In addition, USACE is partnering with other federal agencies (e.g., NOAA, FEMA, U.S. Geological Survey [USGS]) and other non-governmental agencies. Significant work is required to establish a cohesive framework to proactively manage the risk presented by compound flooding events. At maturity, this framework should provide an encompassing approach to all aspects of compound flooding effects in coastal regions subject to both coastal and pluvial/fluviol flood-risk drivers, updating/developing technical guidance, advancing long-term monitoring of data collection, enhanced numerical modeling, and establishing a robust statistical approach to the coincidence of events that contribute to compound flooding.	stakeholder collaboration

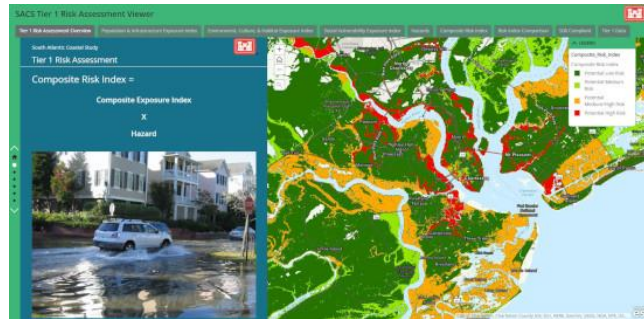
ENGINEERING

- Details risk associated with coastal hazards such as storm surge, wave attack, and erosion under current and future conditions
- Discusses engineering components of the coastal hazards system and sea level change analysis



GEOSPATIAL

- Details the Tier 1 Risk Assessment
- Discusses the geospatial datasets generated to better understand coastal risk, environmental risk, economic damages, and risk reduction efforts across the study area



OUTREACH

- Describes the Engagement and Communications Plan which is the framework used for planning and executing communications associated with the SACS
- Details agency collaboration, stakeholder engagement, and communication methods and tools





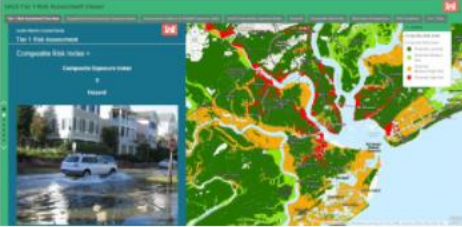
SACS Geoportal



- Provides access to study datasets, products and documentation
- Zoom into datasets of interest
- Download datasets for individual use

SACS Geoportal


<https://data-sacs.opendata.arcgis.com/>



Tier 1 Risk Assessment

A regional level analysis of potential flooding risk in coastal areas.


[Details](#) [View](#)



Tier 2 Economic Risk Assessment

Dollar damages and consequences data for existing and future conditions.


[Details](#) [View](#)



Environmental Analysis

Environmental Resources Inundation Vulnerability, Risk, and Priority Environmental Areas.

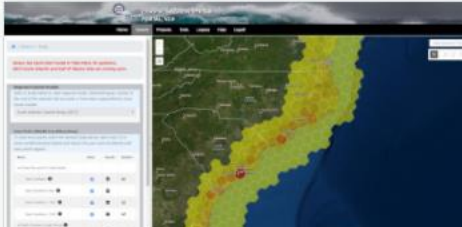
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Sand Availability and Needs Determination

To maintain beaches, how much sand is needed and where will it come from?


[Details](#) [View](#)



Coastal Hazards System

Wave and water levels derived from numerical modelling.

[Details](#) [View](#)



State and Territory Appendices

State and Territory-specific geospatial data referenced in the State and Territory Appendices.

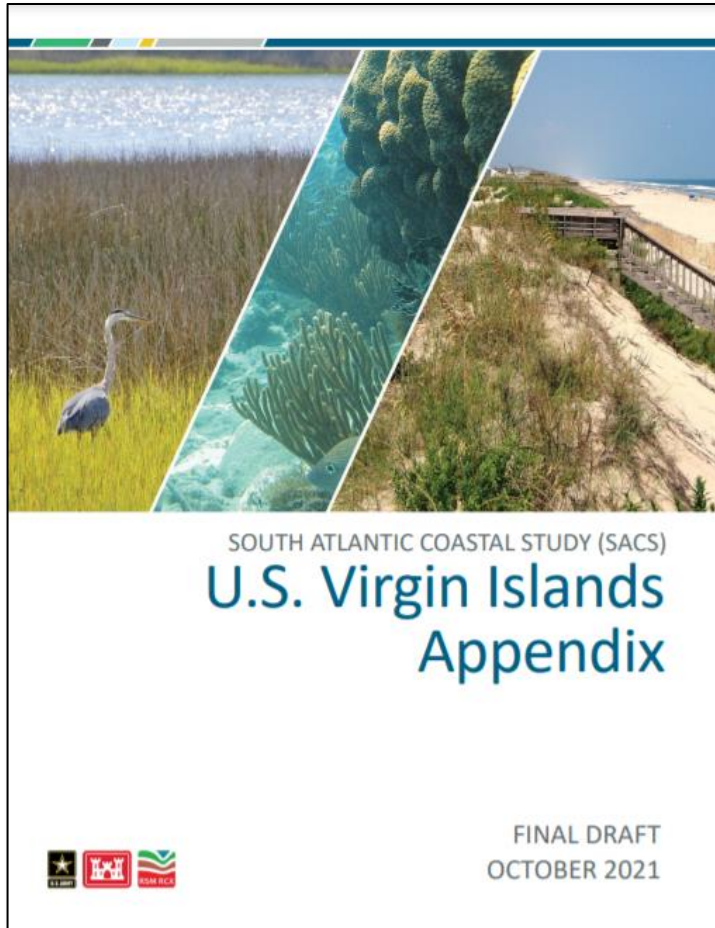
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Questions



U.S Virgin Islands Appendix Organization



Section 1 – Introduction

Section 2 – Agency Coordination and Collaboration

Section 3 – Overview of Existing and Future Conditions

Section 4 – Risk Assessment

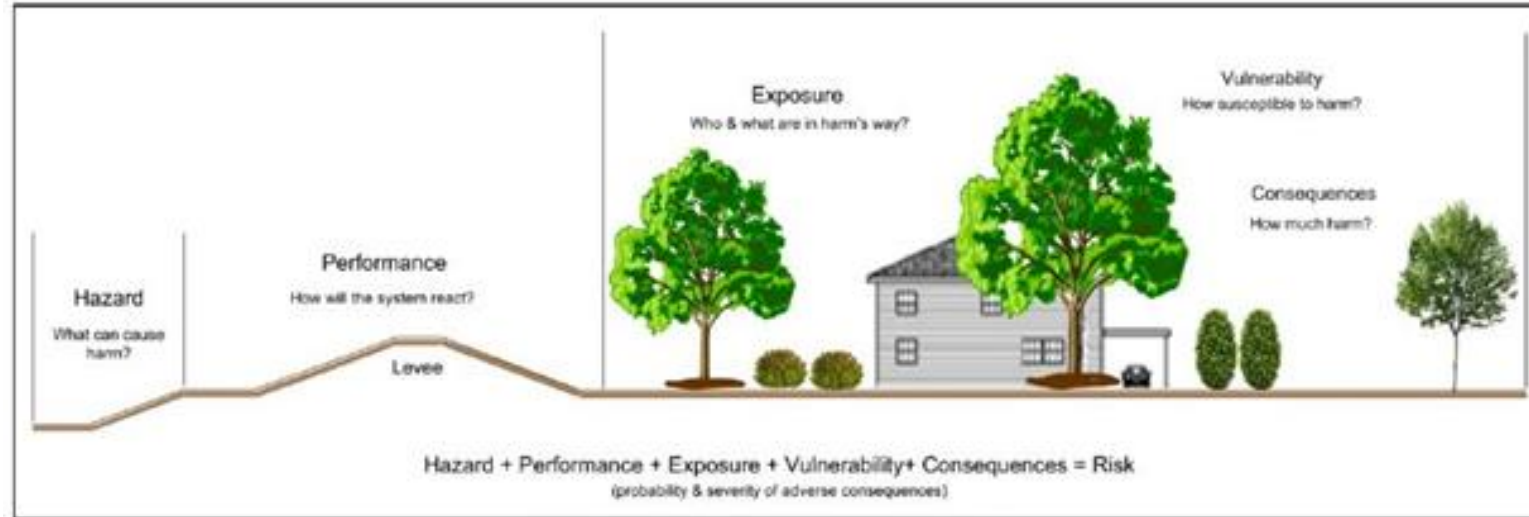
Section 5 – Managing Risk

Section 6 – Institutional and Other Barriers

Section 7 – Recommendations to Address Risk

Attachments – Focus Area Action Strategies

Section 4 - Risk Assessment



Definitions of risk components as utilized in the SACS include:

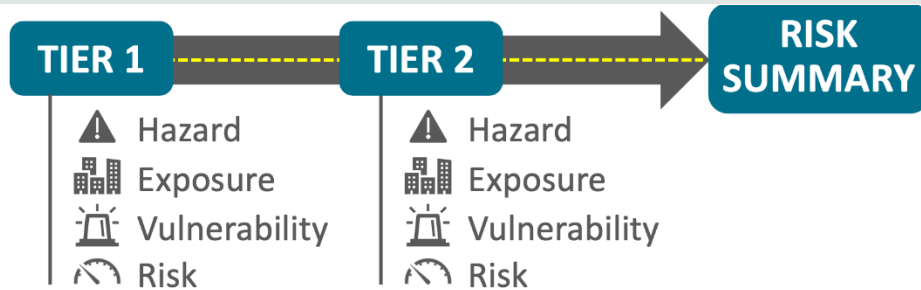
Hazard – In a general sense, hazard is anything that is a potential source of harm to a valued asset (human, animal, natural, economic, and social)

Exposure – Describes who and what may be harmed by the flood hazard. Exposure incorporates a description of where the flooding occurs at a given frequency, and what assets exist in that area.

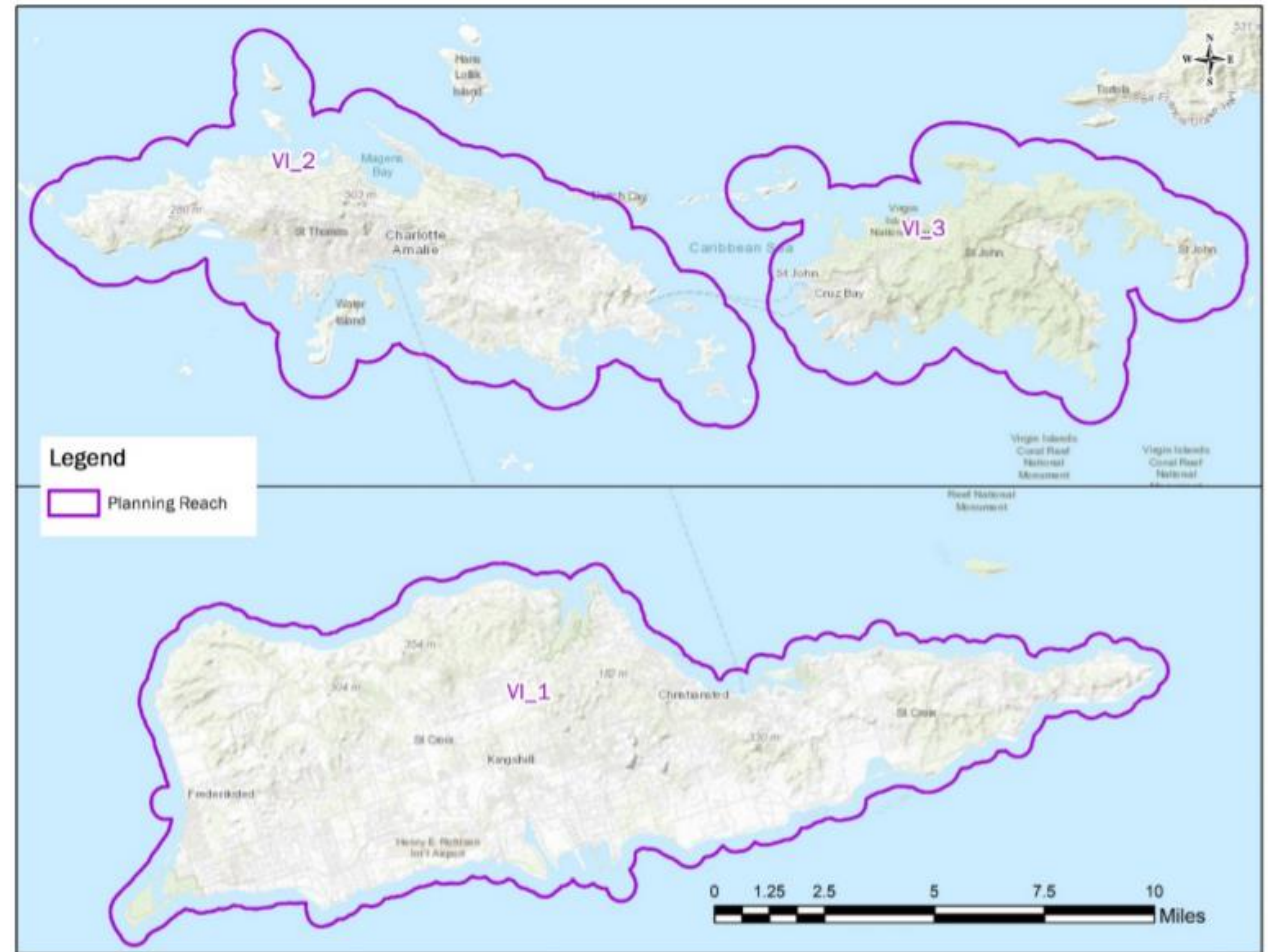
Vulnerability – Susceptibility of harm to human beings, property, and the environment when exposed to a hazard. Depth-damage functions, depth-mortality functions, and other similar relationships can be used to describe vulnerability.

Risk – Combination of likelihood and harm to people, property, infrastructure, and other assets.

Section 4 - Risk Assessment



- Analysis performed per planning reach
 - Tier 1:** summary of findings from the consistent assessment across study area
 - Tier 2:** more refined USVI-specific assessment
 - Economic risk
 - Risk to environmental resources
 - Risk to cultural resources

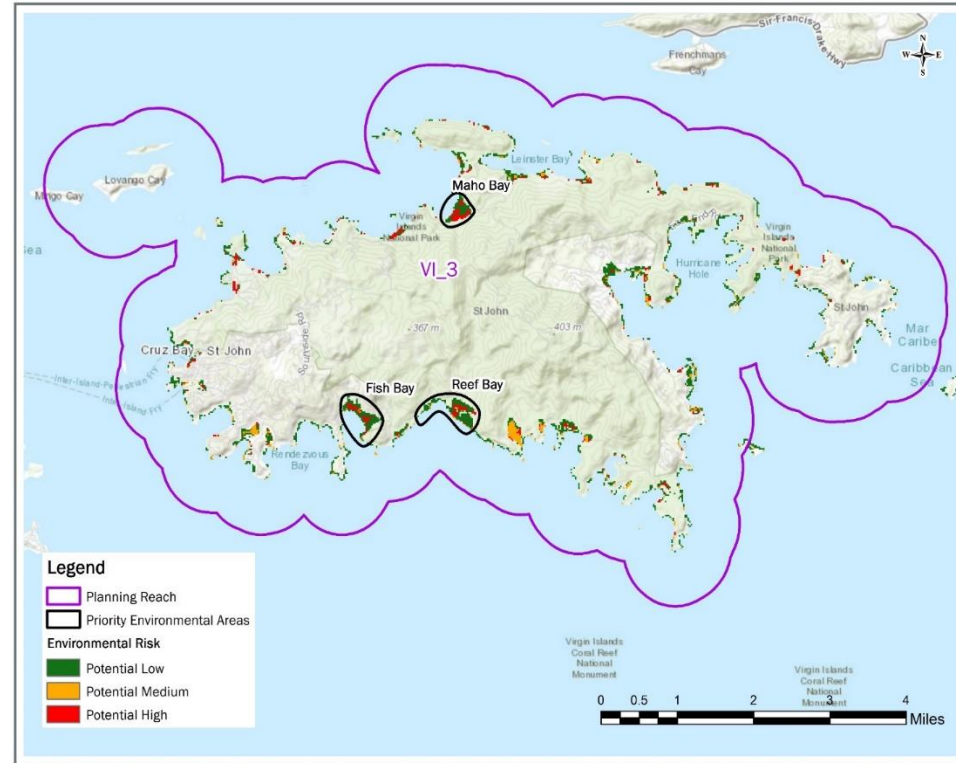




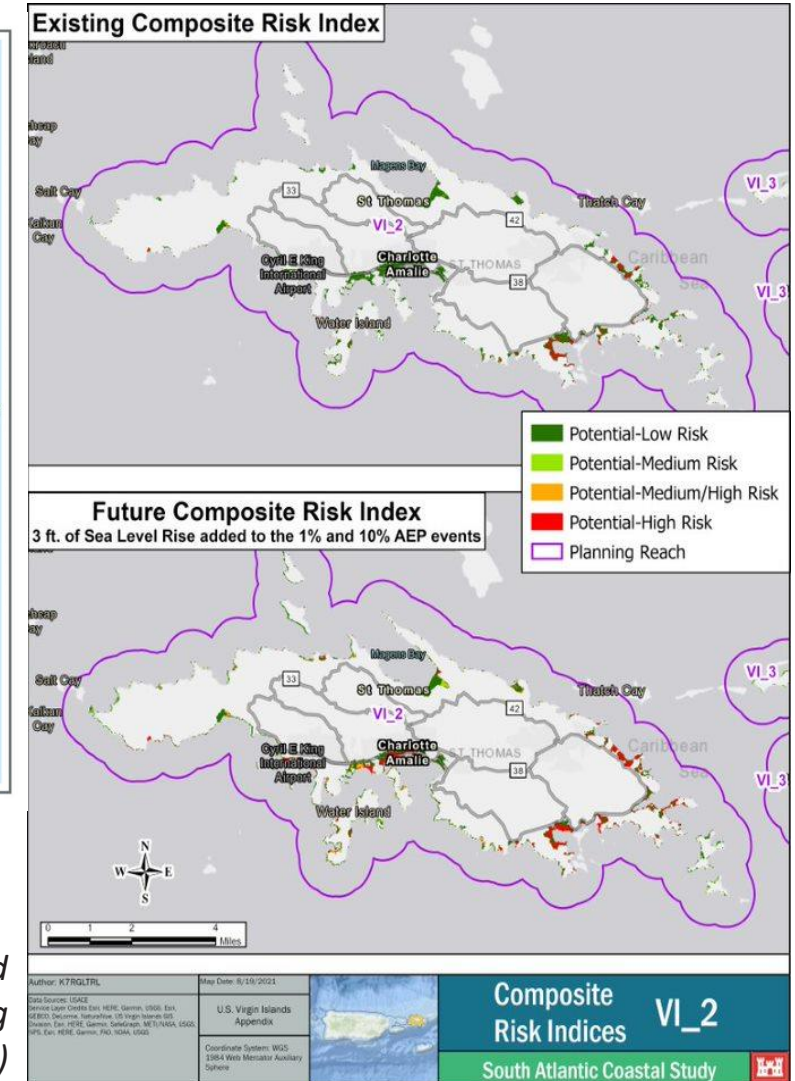
U.S. Virgin Islands Specific Findings



- 3 high-risk locations in existing conditions
- 6 high-risk locations in future conditions with sea level rise
- 13 Priority Environmental Areas Identified
- \$2,000,000 in estimated annual damages in existing conditions
- \$5,000,000 in future conditions with sea level rise

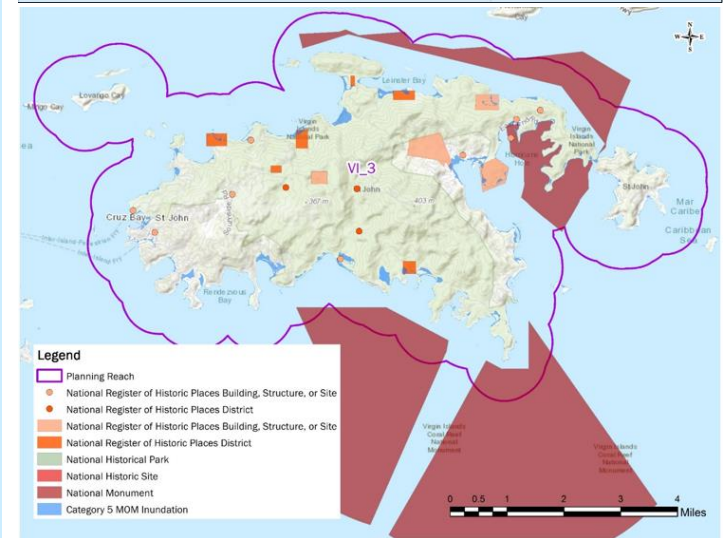
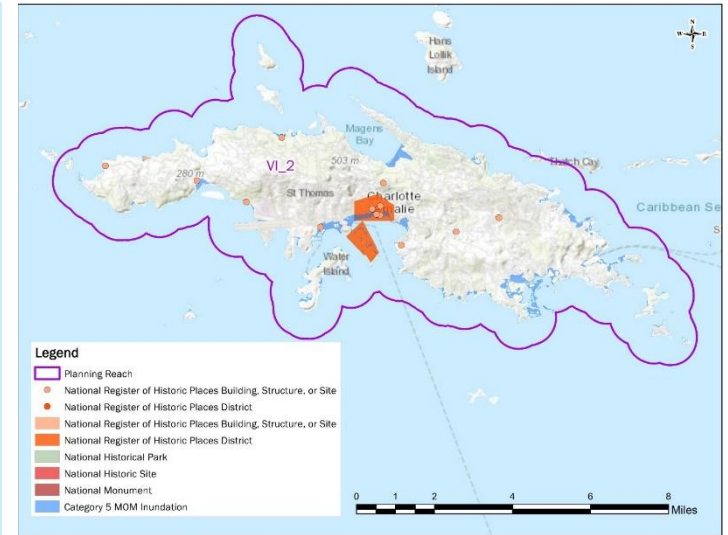
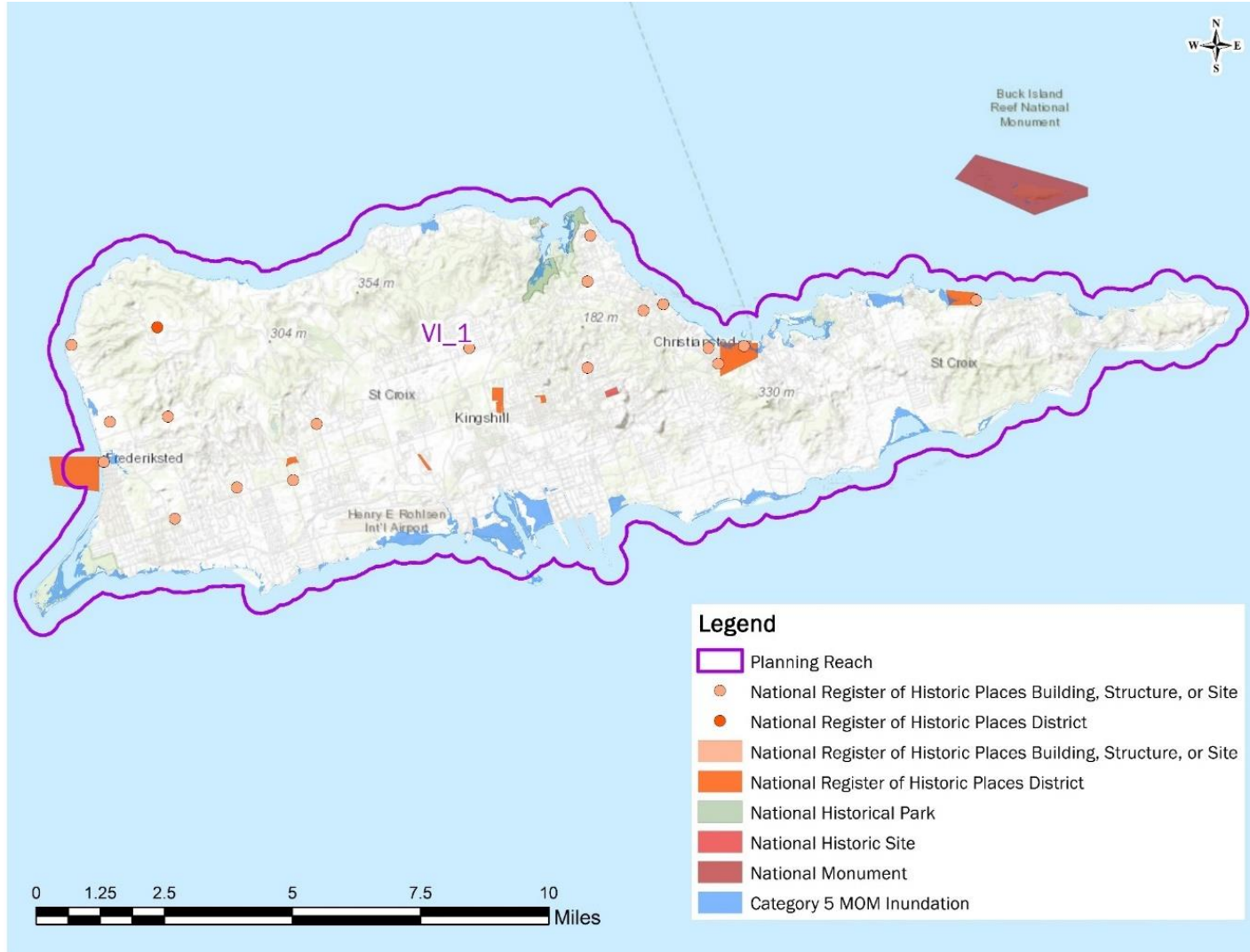


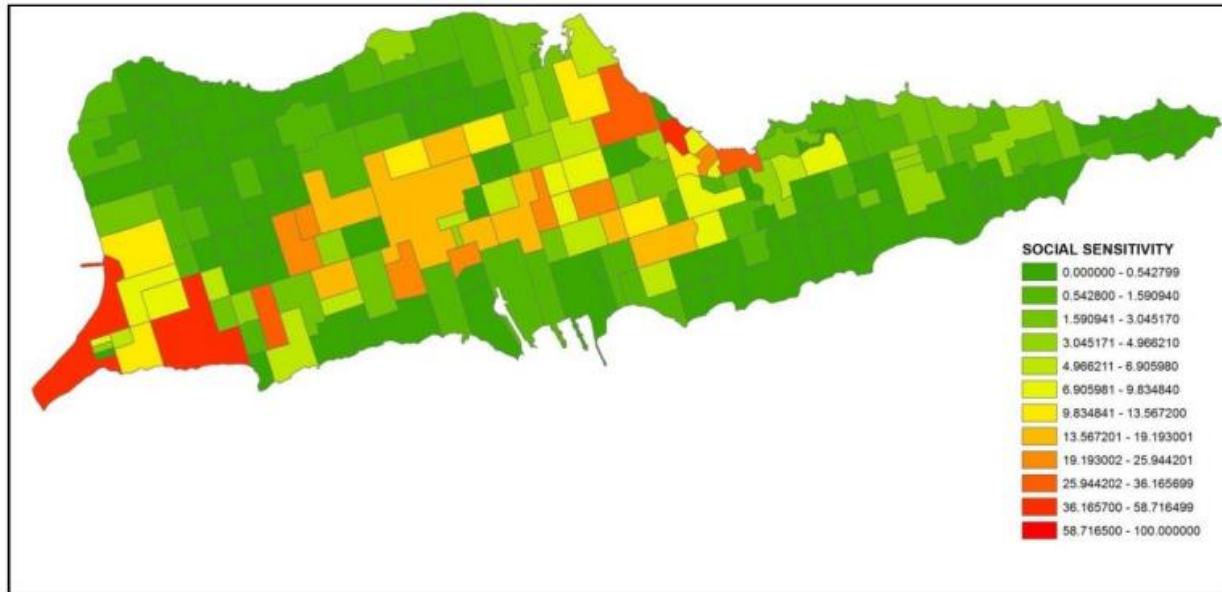
Priority Environmental Areas for VI_3 (St. John)



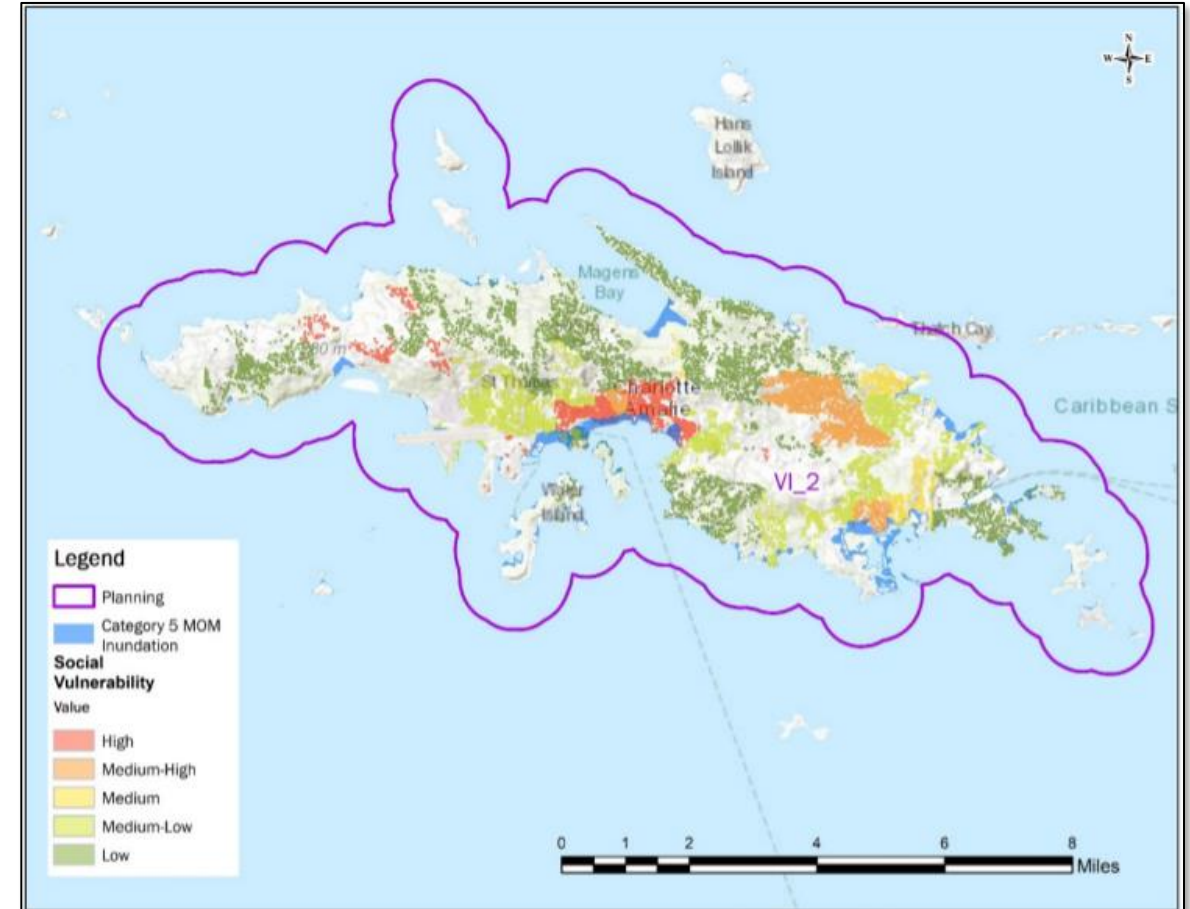
Right: Existing Composite Risk Index and Future Composite Risk Index for Planning Reach VI_2 (St Thomas)

U.S. Virgin Islands Specific Findings





National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and The Nature Conservancy Social Sensitivity Index for Planning Reach VI_1 (St. Croix) (Schill et al. 2014)



Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool Socially Vulnerable Populations Subject to Inundation from Category 5 Maximum of Maximum for Planning Reach VI_2 (St. Thomas) (Dobson et al. 2020)



U.S. Virgin Islands Territory Priority Recommendations



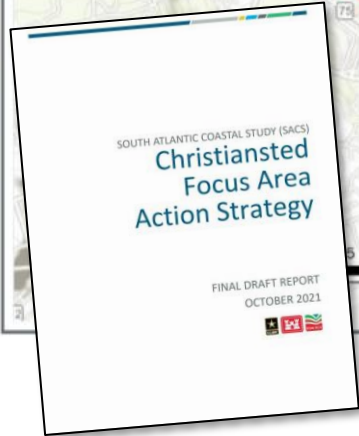
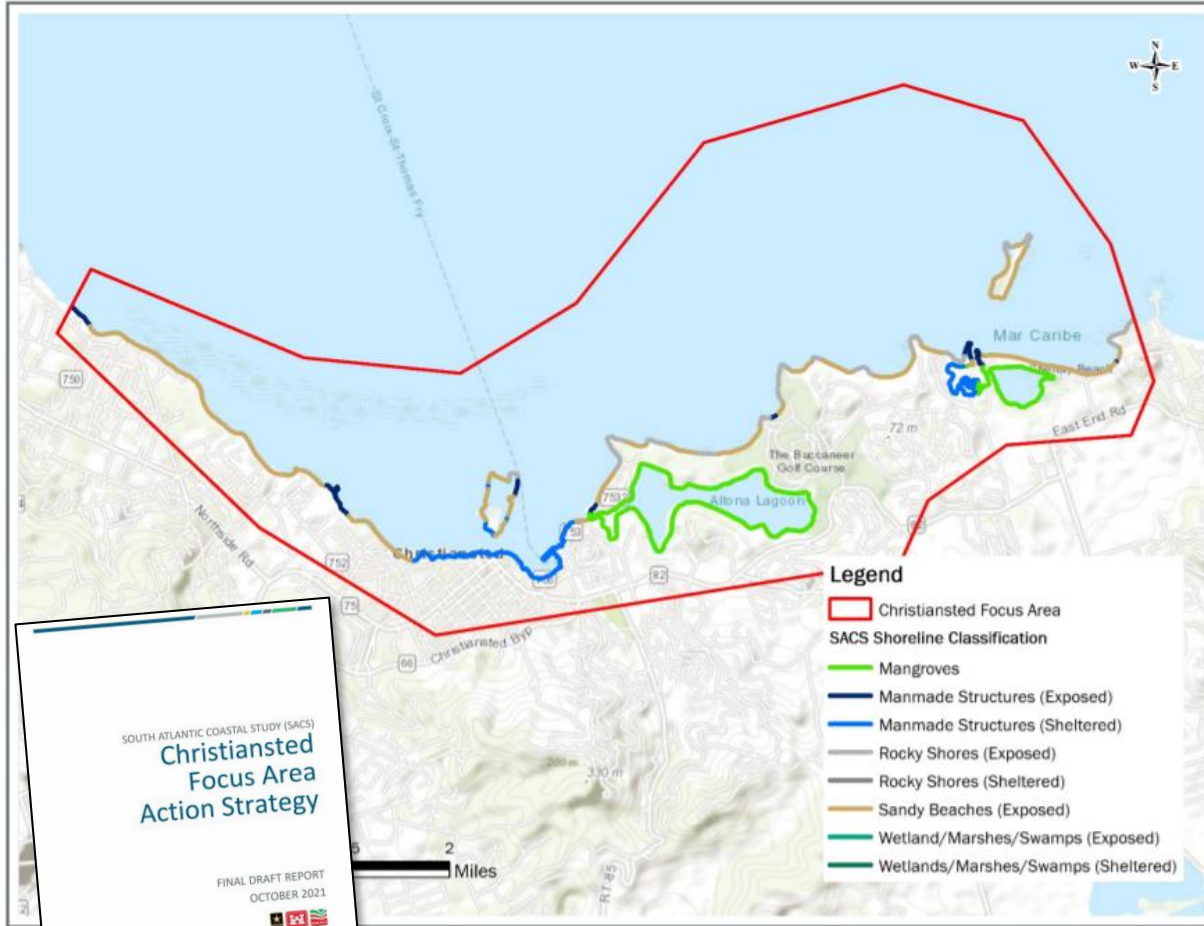
Authority Category	Implementation Timing	Recommendation For	Recommendation	Description
Study Efforts (Activities under CAP)	Near-Term (<5 years)	USACE	Protection of Airport Road (Charlotte Amalie)	Mitigating erosion and inundation risks to Airport Road, an emergency evacuation route, is necessary to protect residents and tourists on the island. Coastal erosion and inundation of the only evacuation route to the airport on the island was noted as a significant problem within the Charlotte Amalie focus area. USACE may be able to support these efforts through the Continuing Authorities Program Section 14 – Emergency Streambank and Shoreline Protection or Section 103- Beach Erosion and Hurricane and Storm Damage Reduction authority, pending interest from a non-federal sponsor. While some potential actions to manage coastal storm risks to Airport Road may exceed the CAP federal funding limit of \$10 million, additional funding sources, such as the Federal Highway Authority could be considered. Non-federal cost sharing waivers are also available for CAP studies and projects in the U.S. Virgin Islands (Department of the Army 2017). The waiver amount is currently (2021) \$512,000, but this amount will vary based on inflation.
Study Efforts (follow-on USACE feasibility study)	Mid-Term (5-10 years)	USACE	Christiansted Comprehensive Flood Protection	An opportunity for a comprehensive study of CSRM opportunities in downtown Christiansted was identified to conduct a more detailed and holistic assessment of potential CSRM opportunities. Non-federal sponsors would be needed for USACE engagement in this type of study. Continued collaboration to discuss these opportunities and identify potential partnerships is recommended.



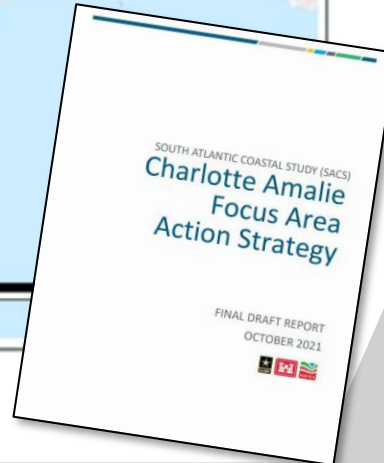
U.S. Virgin Islands Focus Areas



Christiansted



Charlotte Amalie



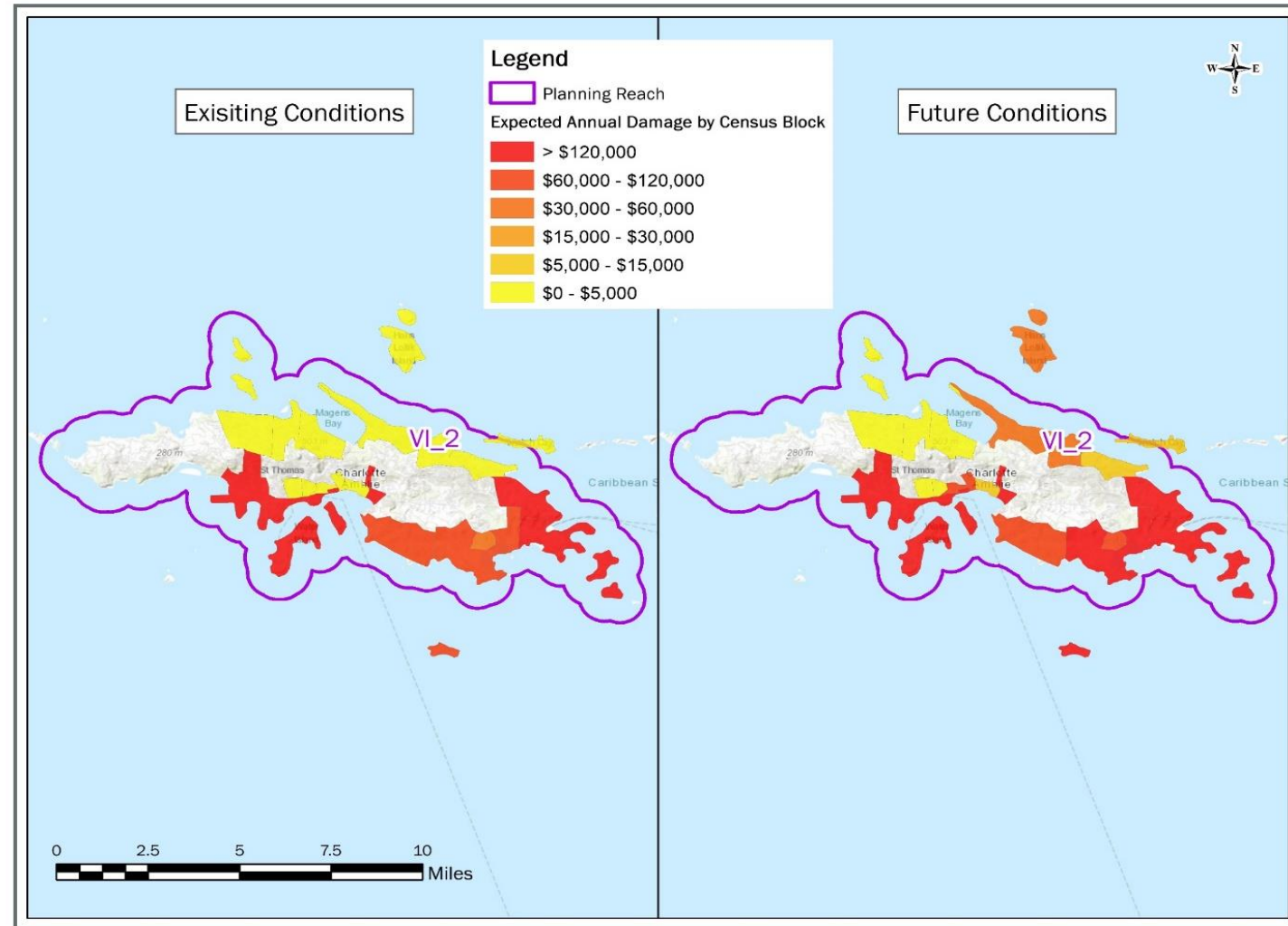


Focus Area – Expected Annual Damages



Summary of Charlotte Amalie Focus Area Consequences

AEP Event	Annualized Damages under Existing Conditions (FY20)	Annualized Damages under Future Conditions (FY20)
10%	\$6,700,000	\$12,100,000
2%	\$9,000,000	\$25,300,000
1%	\$10,500,000	\$35,300,000
0.2%	\$17,700,000	\$66,700,000



Modeled Expected Annual Infrastructure Damages for Planning Reach VI_2 (St. Thomas)



Focus Area Example – Charlotte Amalie Airport Road



- Evaluation and Comparison of Solutions
 - Hazard Analysis
 - Current and future erosion and inundation
 - Potential Measure Identification
 - Measures and Costs Library
 - Potential USACE Authorities

Comparison of Historic Aerial Imagery of Airport Road abutting Lindbergh Bay



2006

Planning Level Cost Estimates for Measures along Airport Road

Mitigation Action	Road Elevation (MCL)		Revetment (MCL)		Fill Dredge Hole (USACE Study)	
Order of Magnitude	Low Estimate	High Estimate	Low Estimate	High Estimate	Low Estimate	High Estimate
Base Cost Estimate	\$6,819,000	\$12,668,000	\$4,439,000	\$13,507,000	\$14,275,000	\$37,950,000
Additional Costs	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,100,000	\$1,270,000
Total Cost Estimate	\$6,819,000	\$12,668,000	\$4,439,000	\$13,507,000	\$15,375,000	\$39,217,000



2020



Focus Area Action Strategy – Recommendations



Example recommendations from Charlotte Amalie FAAS:

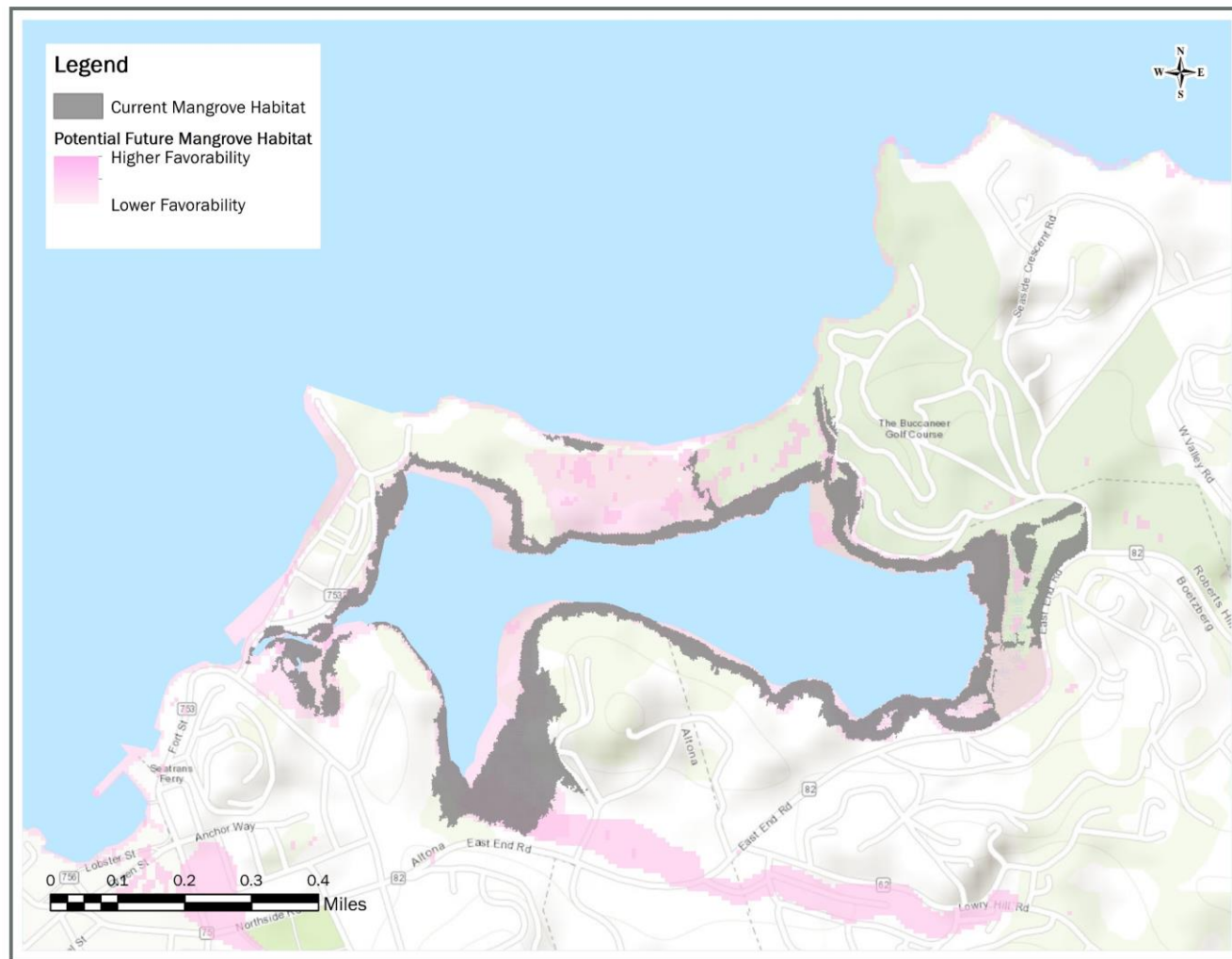
Authority Category	Implementation Timing	Recommendation For	Recommendation	Description
Address Barriers Preventing Comprehensive Risk Management	Near-Term (<5 years)	Multi-Agency Action	Use of risk assessment tools and collaboration for coastal resilience needs	The Tier 2 Economic Risk Assessment highlights the potential future cost of inaction for the territory. The risk assessment tools, in concert with other SACS key products, should be leveraged to help provide data and foster additional collaboration around co-benefits and coastal resilience needs. For example, economic development plans such as Vision 2040 can be enriched by the analyses already compiled as part of SACS. USACE can continue to participate in these collaborative efforts, particularly through the Silver Jackets program, and provide support, where appropriate.
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Focus Area Example – Mangrove Migration Study



- Evaluation and Comparison of Solutions
 - Hazard Analysis
 - Current erosion and inundation
 - Existing conditions + sea level rise
 - Preliminary Assessment
 - Favorable areas for conservation
 - Potential USACE Authorities
 - Continuing Authorities Program Section 206
 - Potential sponsors or coordinating partners
 - U.S. Department of Agriculture
 - USVI DPNR's Coastal Zone Management Program
 - U.S. Fish and Wildlife



Potential Habitat for Mangrove Migration around Altona Lagoon



Focus Area Action Strategy – Recommendations



Example recommendations from Christiansted FAAS:

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Comment Collection





Submitting Your Comments



South Atlantic Coastal Study Main Report

Appendices

Engineering Appendix

Geospatial Appendix

Outreach Appendix

Alabama Appendix

Florida Appendix

Georgia Appendix

Mississippi Appendix

North Carolina Appendix

Puerto Rico Appendix

South Carolina Appendix

U.S. Virgin Islands Appendix

- Link to comment form is on the SACS website
- Comments will be considered but not responded to individually
- Comment period closes **November 15, 2021**

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SACS_comments



South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) Stakeholder Review Comments

Stakeholder, Agency, and Tribal Review Comment Sheet

The South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACS) vision is to provide a common understanding of risk from coastal storms and sea level rise to support resilient communities and habitats. This collaborative effort will leverage stakeholders' actions to plan and implement cohesive coastal storm risk management strategies along the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast shorelines, including the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Draft Reports consist of the SACS Main Report, technical appendices, state appendices, and focus area action strategies (FAAS) reports.

Prior to finalizing this Study, we seek your feedback on the report, appendices, and FAAS reports. It is our objective to ensure that the report is not only informative to Congress, but relevant and useful to you and others as a regional resource. Stakeholder, agency, and tribal partner input is critical to the validity of the assessment. Please provide your input through the following series of questions.



Requested Information

- Name
- Title
- Organization
- Town/City and State/Territory
- Approval to Contact
- Telephone Number
- Email Address

Comment Sheet

1) Numerous coastal storm risk management efforts are ongoing throughout the study area and cannot all be described or listed within the report. However, please provide any significant large-scale national, regional, state, or territory-wide efforts that are not mentioned and you feel should be considered for inclusion in the report.

2) Are you aware of data or reports cited in the draft report that have been superseded with updated information or reports/information not referenced?

3) Which finding(s), products, or information in the report could be most useful to you or your agency (if applicable)? Do you have recommendations on how it can be better organized or presented in the report?

4) Are there any other general comments on this report that you wish to provide?





Questions and Discussion



Looking Ahead

- OCT 2021:** Draft Report release
- NOV 2021:** Comment period closes
- DEC-JAN 2022:** Incorporate comments into final report
- AUG 2022:** USACE South Atlantic Division approves final report





Thank You

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<https://www.sad.usace.army.mil/SACS/>

OUTREACH

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